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PEACE CORPS

EDUCATION

ORIGINAL

COMPLETED

THE TOUGHEST JOB YOU'LL EVER LOVE

Volunteers tell me they get more than all they give during their years of Peace Corps service, as I hope you will decide to find out for yourself.

Loret Miller Ruppe
Director

Men and women with education expertise are needed as Peace Corps Volunteers around the world. Developing nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America need skilled, ingenious, energetic and adaptable volunteers, both as teachers and for teacher training.

Education has top priority in developing nations. It is critical in their long-range plans. Only through education will they be able one day to fulfill the needs for trained personnel. And as more children are given the opportunity to attend school, the problem grows more serious.

Qualified teachers are needed in:
- Primary and secondary schools
- Library science
- Physical education
- Special education
- Secretarial training
- Industrial arts
- English as a second language

Minimal facilities will test you. Some volunteers barely have a classroom or enough supplies and find that, in addition to English, a working proficiency in the local language is essential. But, if you accept the challenge, you can expand the horizons of your students—and your own.

Education is only one of the areas for which Peace Corps Volunteers are needed. For information about other assignments, contact the Peace Corps office in your vicinity.

A New Library

Wendy Davis, taught English in rural Thailand. "English is a major section of entrance exams for any institution of higher learning there, and most scientific and technical subjects are taught in English, so it is necessary for advancement," she said. She also helped students on school projects, such as raising chickens, bees and growing fruits and vegetables. Her most satisfying experience was starting an English library at her school in an unused classroom. The school bought 45 books, and the Asia Foundation in Bangkok donated 39. She contacted groups in the U.S. asking for donations, too. "It was a beginning," she said. "The new library was used constantly."

Retired School Teacher

Wiring lights or breaking down an auto engine are just part of the busy schedule for a 51-year-old retired Kansas school teacher serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Eastern Caribbean. Verna Stratton teaches 11-to-15-year-old boys spelling, reading and math in the mornings. In the afternoons, it's electricity, automotive parts and plumbing. Mrs. Stratton is a 1961 education graduate of Bethel College, Newton, Kans., with a teacher's certificate in special education from Emporia State Teacher's College, Emporia, Kans. "What we hope to accomplish is to begin a skills program which will introduce our boys to various skills which we hope will help them choose a career," says Mrs. Stratton. Tools for the trades classes are often in short supply. But somehow she and the students manage. "It's worth it," she says. "They are learning."

Adding Hope

Kerri Frame, after receiving Peace Corps teacher training, taught math to secondary school students in Swaziland. "They needed algebra, geometry and trigonometry to get engineering degrees, or to contribute to the progress of the country in other fields," she said. After six months of teaching, the local children began to come to her for help. "Then I knew that I had been accepted, and they were trying to understand what I was trying to teach them." She learned to speak the local language, SiSwati, and was a Girl Guide troop leader. Her day began at 5:30 a.m. and ended at 4 p.m. After school she jogged before dinner, and afterwards, played her violin. Her small house had running water, electricity, a stove, refrigerator and an outdoor toilet and shower. There was bus service to a town nine miles away, where she did most of her shopping and went to the movies. "I read a lot, too," she said.

Peace Corps Facts

Skilled people are needed by the Peace Corps. They must be adaptable, highly motivated and able to function with a minimum of support. People of host countries attach great importance to a volunteer's attitude and personal relations.

Volunteers must have the flexibility to adjust to difficult situations and the openness to learn and adjust to unfamiliar surroundings. It's called coping with culture shock.

As a volunteer, you will live within the community to which you are assigned and become integrated with its activities. You will be making a commitment to devote your skills and experience in service to others and give two years of your life in the belief that one person can make the difference.

Peace Corps Reg

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accept volunteer

Peace Corps . . . the toughest job you'll ever love

Peace Corps Regulations

- You must be a U.S. citizen.
- The minimum age for a volunteer is 18 years, but few applicants under 21 have the skills and experience to qualify.
- You must meet medical and legal requirements.
- You will receive training, usually 8 to 16 weeks, to adapt your skills to your project area.
- Medical care and transportation are provided.
- You will receive a subsistence allowance that will permit you to live at the level of your host country co-workers. It starts when you begin training.
- At the end of your service you will receive a readjustment allowance of $175 for every month of training and service.
- Your references and background will be checked to assess your skills, experience and ability to relate to others in new surroundings.
- Only in rare cases does the Peace Corps accept volunteers with dependents.

Peace Corps Offices

Peace Corps has 15 area recruiting offices nationwide. Check the white pages of your telephone directory, under U.S. Government, for the office nearest you, or write:

Peace Corps
Recruitment Office
806 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20526

You can call Washington, D.C. toll free at (800) 424-8580, ext. 93.

There is no discrimination by the Peace Corps because of race, color, national origin, age, political beliefs, sex or religion. Anyone who feels discriminated against by the Peace Corps may write to the Office of Compliance, Peace Corps, Washington, D.C. 20526.